

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claim 2 and withdrawn claims 10 through 17 are canceled herein. Claims 1, 4, 5, and 6 are amended herein. Please note that all claims currently pending in the referenced application are shown below. Please enter these claims as amended. Upon entry, this listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

1. (Currently amended) A method of screening a compound for its ability to activate or suppress ABIN (A20-Binding Inhibitor of ~~NFKB~~ NF-κB activation) (~~ABIN~~) dependent ~~NFKB~~ NF-κB inhibition, said method comprising:
combining a sample, comprising a compound, to be screened with a protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 in an assay;
conducting the assay under conditions that permit an interaction of said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 with the compound of said sample to be screened;
detecting an interaction between said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and the compound;
identifying the compound in said sample that interacts with said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9; and
assaying said compound for activation or suppression of ABIN dependent NF-κB inhibition.
2. (Canceled).
3. (Canceled).
4. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 1, further comprising combining said sample to be screened and an A20 polypeptide with said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 in said assay.

5. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising assaying said sample to be screened for suppression of an interaction between said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and said A20 polypeptide.
6. (Currently amended) The method according to claim 4, further comprising assaying said sample to be screened for activation of an interaction between said protein comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 9 and said A20 polypeptide.
7. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said assay is selected from the group consisting of a two-hybrid assay and a co-immunoprecipitation assay.
8. (Canceled).
9. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein said ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition is induced by TNF (tumor necrosis factor) and/or IL-1 (interleukin-1).
10. through 17. (Canceled).
18. (Previously presented) The method according to claim 1, wherein assaying said compound for activation or suppression of ABIN dependent NF- κ B inhibition comprises conducting a NF- κ B dependent reporter gene assay.